



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(B & W Docket No. 003259.00016)

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8-21-02

Applicants: Benton et al. **Paper No:**
Serial No.: 09/918,410 **Group Art Unit:**
Filed: July 30, 2001 **Examiner:**
Title: Hydrophobe Associative Polymers and Compositions
and Methods Employing Them

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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TC 1700

Dear Sir:

Prior to examining the above-referenced patent application, kindly enter the following amendments. A Version Showing Changes Made is attached.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 12 of the specification with the following paragraph:

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A
The hydrophobe associative polymers may have any suitable polymeric form, including, for example, a linear, comb-like, or helical polymer form. Without wishing to be bound by theory, the hydrophobic moieties of the polymer are understood to be sufficiently sterically unhindered to associate with one another in sufficient degree when the polymer is in an aqueous medium and, more specifically, in a saturated aqueous solution of an alkali metal salt of a carboxylic acid, under low or no shear, thereby increasing the viscosity of the composition under those conditions. More specifically,